

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph found on page 3, lines 1-11 with the following paragraph:

pump having a housing with an inlet chamber, a metering chamber and an outlet chamber, a pair of gears rotatably mounted in the metering chamber with each of the gears having a plurality of herringbone gear teeth spaced apart at a predetermined pitch for meshing engagement with gear teeth of the other of the gears, each of the gear teeth having helical side portions and a curved central portion connecting the side portions, and means for rotating the gears to carry the elastomeric material from the inlet chamber through the metering chamber into the outlet chamber and for sealing the space between the outlet chamber and the inlet chamber upon meshing engagement of the gear teeth of the pair of gears.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 4, lines 12-22 with the following:

Referring to Figs. 2, 3 and 4 the gears 22,24 are shown in greater detail. A plurality of herringbone teeth 30, 30' are spaced circumferentially around the circumference of the gears 22, 24. Each of the teeth 30, 30' is of a generally herringbone shape having helix side portions 32 and a curved central portion 34. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3 the teeth 30 are spaced apart a predetermined pitch  $P$ . The curved central portion 34 extends circumferentially of the gear a distance  $P/2$  equal to at least 1/2 the pitch  $P$  of the teeth 30. Accordingly, when the gears 24 and 22 are in meshing engagement the teeth 30, 30' will be in continuous contact and provide a smooth continuous squeezing of the elastic material 19 out of the spaces  $S$  between the teeth as shown in Fig. 1. The elastomeric material 19 is not overheated and maintains a substantially uniform temperature as it is moved through the outlet chamber 16 into a die channel 36 of the die 21.

Please replace the paragraphs found on page 5, lines 1-14 with the following:

extruder 20 being rotatable at a speed which provide sufficient material at a predetermined pressure to fill the inlet chamber 14 and the spaces between the teeth 30, 30'.

The gear teeth 30 and 30' may have transverse sections as shown in Fig. 1 identical to the transverse sections of standard spur gears used for gear pumps. The central portion 34 of the gear teeth 30, 30' may be generated by rotating a transverse section along an axis of each of the teeth 30,30'.

A preferred embodiment has been described hereinabove. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the above apparatus may incorporate changes and modifications without departing from the general scope of this invention. It is intended to include all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.

Having thus described the invention it is now claimed: